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Exploration and Discovery

THE GERMANS IN BABYLON

The German Orient-Society has worked industriously on the site to old Babylon for several years, and made some valuable discoveries, according to the meager reports that have been published in their *Mitteilungen*. Their more recent work has been carried on at the mound *Kasr*. Within the limits of this portion of the ruins they have uncovered the remains of a palace of Nebuchadnezzar and of his father, Nabopolassar. In prosecuting this work they were obliged to remove four meters in depth of debris from a space of 6,400 square meters. This space was resplendent with the remains of the palaces of the great kings of the later Babylonian empire. On the southern boundaries of this space were found remains of the walls of great Babylon, of such character, the report says, as to throw some light on the solution of that vexed question in the discussion of the defenses of the capital city of lower Babylonia. Mention is made, too, of the finding of three *Nimitti-Bel* cylinders of Sardanapolis, all carrying on their surface the same legends.

THE GERMANS IN ASSUR

The prize of German excavations during the last year has been at the site of the old capital of the Assyrian empire, Assur, the modern *Kalat Schirgat*, about thirty miles below Mosul, on the right, or west, bank of the Tigris River. Excavations have been conducted at this mound since September, 1903, with marvelous success. In addition to the results already noted (*Biblical World*, October, 1904), the expedition has been wonderfully successful. In September, 1904, a *Phalluszylinder* of Ašir-rimnišēšu was found in a brick wall. Since that date many fragments of similar cylinders have been discovered in the debris. Some of these are inscribed with Old Babylonian characters, and others with late Assyrian. They bespeak the long time which marks this city as one of the most important in the upper Tigris valley. Esarhaddon (681-668 B. C.) and Sargon (722-705 B. C.) built palaces here and fitted them out in the most approved style of that day.

Although the printed report gives one a very fragmentary idea of the scope and amount of excavated material, we note with interest that the

running notations of objects found reaches 4,795. Of these numbers there are apparently very many inscriptions from nearly every period of Assyrian history. The most important find, touching Assyrian history, announced in the printed statements is that of a number of new rulers of Babylonia and Assyria, such as may supplement in many ways the fragmentary lists already known. In connection with No. 26 of the *Mitteilungen* (April, 1905), Professor Friedrich Delitzsch has prepared and published, in a very helpful form, a full list of the known rulers of Babylonia and Assyria from En-ĥegal, king of Lagash of unknown date (about 4500 B. C.), down to Alexander the Great. In this revised list he incorporates some of the new names gathered out of the material which the German expeditions have already yielded. A column of remarks furnishes valuable chronological material for the student of the history of those valley nations. Wherever possible, the exact date of each ruler is stated, and the native authority given for the position taken.

Another valuable accompaniment of No. 26 is one of Kiepert's maps of Asiatic Turkey, prepared and printed in the best form and style of that reliable author. By the use of this help one can trace the German excavators in their journeys, their places of work, and their positions relative to those points where other governments or societies are uncovering mounds. We shall expect soon to see some of the published material of these German campaigns of the past five years, and to profit by the new facts gathered in the elucidation of some of the gaps and breaks in the history of Babylonia and Assyria.

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